

TRINITY CHARGE--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Ralph C. Link, Pastor  
Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 9:00 A.M.  
Christ Church, Duncannon 10:30 A.M.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP May 28, 1972

The Organ Prelude  
\*The Hymn of Praise 440  
\*The Call to Worship  
\*The Prayer of Confession (Unison)

O God, who by thy grace in Jesus Christ hast made us to share in a high and heavenly calling, we confess to thee our grievous sins as members of thy Church. We have not led a life worthy of this high calling; we have been overprotective of ourselves, and not concerned enough for others. We have used thy word of truth to accomplish our own ends, and not to fulfill thy will. We have been noisy when we should have been silent. We have not obeyed thy Word read and preached to us. We have misused thy grace received in the sacraments, and we have not loved one another as thou didst show thy love for us in the saving act of Christ. O God, Father and Head of the Church, cleanse us and keep us accountable to thee. Through Jesus Christ our Lord and in his name we pray. Amen.

\*The Kyrie  
\*The Assurance of Pardon  
The Scripture---Ecclesiastes 12:9-13 17:5-10  
\*The Gloria Patri  
The Anthem (Trinity)  
The Pastoral Prayer  
The Announcements  
The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings  
\*The Doxology  
\*The Offering Prayer and Lord's Prayer  
The Hymn of Meditation 443  
The Sermon----"Freedom Is--?"  
The Sermon Prayer

\*The Hymn of Response 442  
\*The Benediction  
\*The Threefold Amen  
\*The Postlude  
\*Congregation Stands

#### GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Delegates are still needed from each church for the annual conference at Annville. If you are interested please contact the pastor for details.

#### TRINITY CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Ladies of the Church will meet Thurs. June 1st at 7:30 PM at the church.

#### CHRIST CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Sunday June 4th we will honor our graduates at the morning worship service.

CLOTHING DRIVE JUNE 12TH

Call to Worship: Why are we gathered at this place at this hour? We are gathered as the people of God, to come to know and serve and praise him as he is seen in Jesus Christ and made known by the Holy Spirit.

Let us acknowledge the God before whom we stand.

Let us seek him in confession.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon: Almighty God had mercy upon us and gave his only Son to die for us, and for his sake forgives us of all our sins. To those that believe in his name he gives power to become the Sons of God, and he bestows upon them his Holy Spirit. He that believes ~~ix~~ shall be saved.

Amen.

NATIONAL HOLIDAY

ECCLESIASTES

"Freedom Is ---?"

Text: Ecclesiastes 12: 13b "Fear God , and keep his commandments;  
for this is the whole duty of man."

Luke 17:10b "We are unworthy servants; we have only  
done what was our duty."

(Illustrations from newspaper about rights and freedom)

These are just two examples of what we can read in the paper on almost any given day of the week. Or we can hear these things on the radio and see them on television. Many people seem to have an axe to grind today and it all falls under the category of "rights."

~~WHY~~ We read in the Declaration of Independence, "We hold these truths to be self evident: that all men are created equal: that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights."

Rights, are ~~xxxx~~ guaranteed for every American. These rights are also called freedoms. The freedom of speech, the freedom of religion, the freedom of <sup>THE PRESS</sup> ~~speech~~, the freedom to meet and assemble. These are all rights that our forefathers thought important enough to work for and to strive for. Yet, how do we interpret them?

On a college campus in the Southwest, the Jesus Freaks sing during lunch hour. A group of students have protested this and have asked that they be restrained from this singing. Strangely enough it is the same college group that has been protesting to the administration for freedom of speech on campus.

In Maryland a man is arrested after shooting George Wallace. When he was brought to court to enter a plea, his plea was that of innocent. I can't figure out how he intends to justify his actions, unless he pleads that his rights were being violated. Maybe he will say, "Well you see I was looking at this gun I have been a carrying around and someone bumped me and it went off, 5 times." Strangely enough one of the charges against him is, "Interfering with the rights of a political candidate." But it is here that we must



ask, "Whose rights have priority?" Do I have the right to shoot someone because I disagree with his philosophy? Do my rights take priority over the rights of others? Must my rights be served first, and all others take a secondary position?

The answer lies in the fact that right along with rights is another word called, "Duty." With every right, or every freedom, there is a duty. A duty that must be taken care of and the requirements met. Otherwise rights and freedoms are meaningless.

In the ~~very~~ creation story we see this very clearly. Adam and Eve <sup>were</sup> ~~xxx~~ given the run of the place. They <sup>had</sup> ~~xxx~~ all of the space they could ask for. They <sup>had</sup> ~~xxx~~ all of the beauty that anyone could possibly want. They were completely free. All this was their "rights." The only thing that God required of them was that they were not to eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. This was their duty, and we all know the rest.

This was the start of the problems of mankind in seeking our "rights" at the expense of others. Some Pharisees came to Jesus and they asked him ~~to whom they owed~~ if it was lawful to pay taxes. Jesus asked for a coin, and when one was given to him, he asked, "Whose picture is on it?" And they answered, "Cesar's." And he told them they should give to Cesar the things that belong to Cesar and to God the things of God. In other words he was saying, "You are citizens of this nation and as citizens you have certain responsibilities to it. But you are also citizens of the kingdom of God and you also have responsibilities there too, So, give whatever allegiance you owe to each one." "Do your duty, in other words."

We as citizens of this land have certain duties as well. Some people feel it is their duty to dodge the draft, and they flee the country and then complain because no one has granted them amnesty and they are exiles. But it is perfectly fine for everyone else to serve their country. Some people feel it is their duty to burn their

draft cards or the flag, and if arrested, their "rights " are being infringed upon. After all the federal laws against this only apply to certain people. Some people feel that we are infringing upon the rights of the Vietnamese people by continuing bombing and fighting there, and they ~~would~~ would have us ignore completely the fact that the North Vietnamese are still shooting rockets and weapons, and have never ceased or shown a desire to do so.

Some people ~~would have us~~ are advocating the overthrow of our present form of government so we can start all over, and when arrested or brought to trial are screaming, "My rights have been infringed upon." Yet, they never stop to think that by imposing their wild schemes on everyone they are violating the "Rights" of millions of decent honest Americans who will continue to work in the present system, trying to right it, trying to cleanse it and make it what our forefathers ~~wanted~~ dreamed it could and should be.

~~Another man came to Jesus and asked him,~~

On another occasion another Pharisee came to Jesus and asked him what was the greatest commandment. And Jesus answered, "To love God with all of your heart , all of your soul, and with all of your mind. And you shall love your neighbor as yourself." Another man came and asked ~~him~~ what he had to do to inherit eternal life. And Jesus told him to keep the commandments. ~~These are the duties~~ ~~XX~~ The preacher, or writer of Ecclesiastes states, "Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man."

Man has rights, but he also has duties. So we could say that freedom is --- duties. It is when we realize that we have obligations to ~~be~~ be met along with our rights, then we can be truly free. John Donne wrote the familiar lines we probably all know, "No man is an island," but the part most of us do not know is what follows. these words. "no man is an island entire of itself; every



man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main." We are not just separate individuals adrift in the sea of life. We are all a part of the whole. We are all responsible for the welfare of others. We all need each other.

One of the rights that is rather unique in America is the freedom of religion that we enjoy. But this freedom is and has been eroded in our nation and is in danger of falling by the wayside if the present trend is not reversed. I was reminded of this again this week by one of the articles in the booklet, "Our Daily Bread." (Illustration of Ring the Bell Now.)

If we are to bring back a degree of sanity to our nation and the world, it must start within the ranks of the Christian community. We who are the followers of Christ, must set the example, and start our nation back to the principles upon which it was founded. Freedom is "Duty", "Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man."

ILLUSTRATION OF ONE  
CHURCH SUCCEEDING ANOTHER  
FAILURE

Shirley & Ralph Charles Link, Nancy Link, Dale with Lianne his wife, Lloyd Link with Karen his wife  
 Jessica in front of Ralph C. Link  
 Ethan and Alisha in front of R. Dale and Lianne Link (the eldest son & family)











Ralph C. Link  
153 Keck Road  
Sarver, Pa. 16055  
(412) 352-1103

Born: April 9, 1929, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Married: December 15, 1951  
Wife: Shirley Margaret Neill  
Born: December 8, 1930, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Children: Ralph Dale Link, born May 11, 1955, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Lloyd Alan Link, born May 28, 1958, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Nancy Lynn Link, born March 15, 1961, Butler, Pa.

**SCHOOLING:**

Graduated from Perry High School, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
June 1947

Lay Ministry School, Penn West Conference of United  
Church of Christ, September 1965 to May 1969

Commissioned Lay Minister June 1969

Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.,  
September 1970

Graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary May 1974

Ordained to Christian Ministry March 10, 1974

**PASTORATES:**

As Lay Minister: short term, 1 month or less in  
various churches 1965 to 1967

Emlenton Lamartine Charge of United Church of Christ  
1967 to 1969

Short term in various churches 1970 until Seminary  
entrance July 1970

July 1970 to December 1973 Student Pastor at Trinity  
Charge, New Bloomfield, Duncannon, Pa., Penn Central  
Conference, United Church of Christ

December 1973 to present, St. Paul's United Church of  
Christ, Butler, Pa., Penn West Conference, United  
Church of Christ



## PERSONAL TESTIMONY

OF

Ralph C. Link

I am the youngest of five children. I was born just prior to the onset of the Depression. Our family was very poor. My father was an alcoholic and my mother was a very religious person who was searching for the Lord. During my childhood she did her best to teach me the things of the Lord. Later in life she came to a personal relationship with Him.

I grew up in the Evangelical and Reformed Church where salvation by grace alone was not preached nor taught. I knew all about Jesus, what He did, how He lived, His miracles, His death and resurrection, but I didn't know Him personally.

My life had many ups and downs and all the while I was attending church and striving with my good works to please God. At a very low point in my life when we were deeply in debt and my wife and three children were all ill, I came to the crossroads. I watched a Billy Graham Crusade on television from some distant city and the message he preached seemed to be directed right at me. I wrestled with making that commitment to Christ, but didn't. The next afternoon and evening at work on the 4 to 12 shift I came to the conclusion that I needed to make that commitment to Christ. It seemed like there was no other choice if life was to have any meaning. That night when I came home from work at 1:00 A.M., I laid face down on the living room floor and told God that I couldn't live my life in my own strength and I accepted the gift of salvation from my Savior Jesus Christ. My life has never been the same.

Through several meaningful circumstances I was called by God to serve Him in the Christian Ministry and to help spread that wonderful message of salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. What a wonderful and rewarding time it has been and I give Him all the praise for my salvation and the opportunity to serve Him.

# STATEMENT OF FAITH

OF

Ralph C. Link

I believe the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired inerrant Word of God. I believe the Bible is the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and it is the final authority for the Christian faith and life.

I believe in one God, who is eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe in the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ that He is true God and true man. I believe that He was born of the Virgin Mary, that He lived in sinless life, that He performed the miracles recorded in Scripture, that He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, that He bodily arose from the dead, that He ascended on high where He is at the right hand of Almighty God as our intercessor.

I believe in the Holy Spirit and that He comes and indwells each believer at the time of conversion. I believe that He lives in each believer to lead, to instruct, and to convict so that a believer may live a more godly life.

I believe that through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and through His resurrection, this is the only ground for justification and salvation for all who receive Him. A Lord and Savior and to such as receive Him, they are born of the Holy Spirit and become children of God.

I believe water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the Church but are not means of salvation.

I believe in the personal and premillennial and imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe in the resurrection of the dead, for the believer to resurrection of life and joy with the Lord, for the unbeliever to resurrection of judgement and everlasting punishment.